SMITH STREET WORK-SHOP

SHSAT Prep Resources for Extra Practice

Online Resources

Below, you will find online resources that can help you continue to prepare for each of the three sections on the SHSAT: Revising/Editing, Reading Comprehension, and Math.

1. Revising/Editing

The Revising/Editing portion of the test will assess how much you know about standard English writing conventions. You will be asked to proofread passages for grammatical errors as well as to improve the way the passages are written for conciseness, fluency, and impact. Other questions might ask you to remove a sentence that is off-topic or add a relevant supporting detail that will sharpen an argumentative claim.

To strengthen your score in this section, we recommend watching the instructional videos and completing the practice activities in the "Grammar" section on the Khan Academy website. Specific areas to focus on include verb tense, subject-verb agreement, misplaced/dangling modifiers, parallel construction, and the correct usage of punctuation marks.

*Note: Though the Khan Academy practice sets linked below are designed for SAT prep, these grammar topics are also tested on the SHSAT.

- Review this quick punctuation guide on Khan Academy
- Review the tutorials and accompanying practice sets for the following topics:
  - Phrases and Clauses
  - Subject-verb agreement and pronoun-antecedent agreement
  - Fragments and run-ons
  - Dangling modifiers and parallel structure
- Watch the How-To examples and complete the practice sets and videos under the section titled "Grammar and effective language use" (scroll to bottom of page)
- Take this **Unit test**

You will also find review activities focused on grammar, verb tense, and syntax rules on the website Grammar Bytes (chompchomp.com).

- Complete these Interactive Exercises on Grammar Bytes and check your answers for the following topics:
    - Comma splices
    - Fragments
    - Parallel Structure
    - Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers
    - Apostrophes
    - Commas
    - Pronoun Agreement
    - Pronoun Reference
    - Subject-Verb Agreement
    - Word Choice

2. Reading Comprehension

In the Reading Comprehension section of the SHSAT, the questions will usually ask you to find a main idea, to locate a detail in the passage, or to draw an inference.

There will be a combination of nonfiction and fiction passages, as well as poetry. Reading periodicals such as Scientific American or short articles in the New York Times, The Economist, National Geographic, Time, or the New Yorker can help solidify the type of inferential reasoning you need to succeed on the reading comprehension portion of the test. Students should get used to identifying the main purpose and subject of a passage. In addition, reading passages that use unfamiliar vocabulary terms will help students begin to use context clues to decipher the meaning of new words.

We also recommend the website Read-Works.org as a great resource for both literary and informational passages (you will need to create a free account). Try searching for reading passages at a 7th or 8th grade level and completing the accompanying comprehension questions and vocabulary activities.

ReadWorks.org Poetry Passages/Question Sets
ReadWorks.org Fiction Passages/Question Sets
ReadWorks.org Nonfiction Passages/Question Sets

3. Math

The SHAT test includes topics from advanced arithmetic, basic algebra, geometry, and some probability/statistics. To practice these concepts, we recommend watching the 7th & 8th grade math instructional videos on Khan Academy for any topics you may be struggling with (based on your practice test score report). After watching the video tutorials, complete the accompanying problem sets.

Reminder: calculators are NOT permitted on the SHAT, so do not use a calculator when completing practice problems!